

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 CANBER 02204 160834 Z

12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 IO-12 NEA-10 RSR-01 /129 W
----- 078014

R 160725 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0769
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
AMCONSUL MELBOURNE
AMCONSUL SYDNEY
AMCONSUL ZAGREB

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CANBERRA 2204

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, AS, YO

SUBJ: GOA INDIGNATION OVER EXECUTION OF THREE
NATURALIZED AUSTRALIAN CITIZENS BY YUGOSLAVIA

REF: A) BELGRADE 1595 (NOTAL); B) CANBERRA 2152 (NOTAL)

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT, LED BY PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM, HAS EXPRESSED INDIGNATION OVER YUGOSLAV GOVERNMENT'S EXECUTION OF THREE NATURALIZED AUSTRALIAN CITIZENS FOR TERRORIST ACTIVITIES. ACCORDING TO REPORTS, WHITLAM TOOK PERSONAL HAND IN DRAFTING NOTE TO YUGOSLAV GOVERNMENT AND MADE PUBLIC STATEMENT ON SUBJECT SHORTLY AFTER NEWS OF EXECUTIONS RECEIVED HERE. GOA CONCERNED THAT THEY WERE NOT INFORMED OF IMPRISONMENT THREE PERSONS PREVIOUSLY RESIDENT IN AUSTRALIA AND THAT THREE IN EFFECT HAD NOT BEEN GIVEN FULL BENEFIT OF PROTECTION ACCORDED TO AUSTRALIAN NATIONALS CHARGED WITH OFFENSES AGAINST THRID COUNTRIES. MEANWHILE, ON DOMESTIC/ POLITICAL SCENE, ATTORNEY GENERAL MURPHY'S ACTIONS AGAINST CROATIAN EXTREMISTS AND AUSTRALIAN
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 CANBER 02204 160834 Z

SECURITY INTELLIGENCE ORGANIZATION WERE APPROVED ON PARTY LINE VOTE IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES LAST WEEK. TWO DAYS LATER, HOWEVER, AUSTRALIAN SENATE VOTED IN FAVOR OF RECOMMENDATION TO ESTABLISH BOARD OF INQUIRY INTO MURPHY'S ACTIVITIES. END SUMMARY.

2. AUSTRALIAN NEWSPAPERS HEADLINED EXECUTION BY GOVERNMENT OF YUGOSLAVIA OF THREE CROATIAN TERRORISTS WHO WERE FORMALLY RESIDENTS OF AUSTRALIA AND HELD AUSTRALIAN CITIZENSHIP THROUGH NATURALIZATION. ACCORDING TO PRESS, THEY WERE: VEJSIL KESKIC, MIRKO VLASNOVIC AND DJURO HORVAT. ALSO ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR IN BELGRADE SAW YUGOSLAV VICE MINISTER PETRIC TWICE DURING DAY FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT OF EXECUTIONS APRIL 12. AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR REPORTED TO HAVE PRESENTED "STIFF" NOTE PROTESTING FAILURE OF YUGOSLAV GOVERNMENT TO INFORM AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT OF ARREST, TRIAL AND EXECUTION OF THREE NATURALIZED AUSTRALIANS. AUSTRALIAN NOTE REPORTEDLY ALSO STATED THAT AS AUSTRALIAN CITIZENS, THE THREE MEN WERE ENTITLED TO FULL PROTECTION GRANTED TO ALL AUSTRALIAN NATIONALS CHARGED WITH OFFENSES AGAINST LAWS OF THIRD COUNTRIES.

3. ACCORDING LOCAL SOURCES, PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM PERSONALLY DRAFTED NOTE OF PROTEST. WHITLAM FOLLOWED UP BY PUBLIC STATEMENT IN WHICH HE INDICATED EXECUTIONS HAD TAKEN PLACE WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE OF AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT. HE INDICATED IN STATEMENT THAT EXECUTIONS CAME AS A SURPRISE SINCE IT HAD BEEN EXPECTED AUSTRALIA WOULD HAVE BEEN INFORMED. WHITLAM REPORTEDLY WAS "HOPPING MAD" AT YUGOSLAV GOVERNMENT'S ACTIONS, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF MEASURES NEW GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA TAKING AGAINST TERRORISTS AND TERRORISM IN AUSTRALIA.

4. MEANWHILE, TWO DEBATES OF POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE TOOK PLACE IN AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENT LAST WEEK. THE FIRST DEBATE IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES APRIL 10 WAS INITIATED BY GOVERNMENT IN ORDER TO SUPPORT ATTORNEY GENERAL MURPHY IN RECENT ACTIONS TAKEN TO PROTECT PRIME MINISTER BIJEDIC DURING STATE VISIT MONTH AGO AND CONSEQUENT "RAIDS" ON AUSTRALIAN SECURITY INTELLIGENCE ORGANIZATION HEADQUARTERS AND SELECTED CROATIAN HOMES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 CANBER 02204 160834 Z

IN SYDNEY. VOTE IN HOUSE TO GIVE MURPHY SUPPORT IN HIS

ACTIVITIES WAS 65 TO 54 ALONG PARTY LINES. ON APRIL 12
SENATE, HOWEVER, PASSED MOTION RECOMMENDING ESTABLISHMENT
OF BOARD OF INQUIRY CONSISTING OF THREE HIGH COURT OR
SUPREME COURT JUSTICES TO INQUIRE INTO MURPHY'S ACTIVITIES.
VOTE IN SENATE WAS 25 TO 20 IN FAVOR OF THIS MOTION.
MURPHY REPORTEDLY SAID SENATE " WOULD BE SORRY" THAT
MOTION WAS PASSED. (COPIES OF HANSARD ON THESE TWO
DEBATES SENT BY AIR POUCH TO EA/ ANZ APRIL 16)
RICE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973CANBER02204
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730444/aaaaipnm.tel
Line Count: 128
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 BELGRADE 1595, 73 CANBERRA 2152
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 FEB 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09-Oct-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <15-Oct-2001 by morefirh>; WITHDRAWN <18-Oct-2001 by cunninfx, 3.4.X6>; RELEASED <22 FEB 2002 by golinofr>; APPROVED <22 FEB 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 980121
Subject: GOA INDIGNATION OVER EXECUTION OF THREE
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, AS, YO
To: EA
STATE INFO BELGRADE
MELBOURNE
SYDNEY
ZAGREB
Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005